Silent night-Holy night

"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleeps in heavenly peace,
Sleeps in heavenly peace."

PAUL THE READY.

Rom. 1:15,16 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

INTRO. The Alger, Optic and Henty books.
Brave and Bold. From Rags to Riches, Bound to Win
Rough and Ready, Dauntless Dick, etc.

The text (read) suggests the title above.

Paul was always ready.
For conversion
For Apostleship and Preaching
Grounded in the fundamentals
Had also a Gospel all his own-My Gospel
He preached the Living Risen Lord
His knowledge and obedience to Law nothing
Christ was everything to him.
For death. I am ready, not to be bound only, but to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And at the end he was ready-For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

But in our text we find Paul ready to go to Rome, there to live and work for Christ. He had been to Asia, crossed into Europe, into Greece and Macedonia, and now he was ready to go to the very capitol of the world- Rome. Paul the Ready- Anywhere for Christ. Anywhere with the Gospel. Anywhere to battle evil and win a soul. Paul was grandly bravely ready.

I. What it meant for Paul to be Ready for Rome

1. Roman Pride of Power.

Roman power was power for power's sake and selfish gratification. Paul's Gospel would offend such power. The Gospel boldly denounces all selfishness, false pride and misused power.

2. Roman Pride of Intellect.

Rome, under Augustus and the Antonines, the center of eloquence, literature and science. Paul readily knew how he, the tentmaker proclaiming

a new religion advocated by a handful of fishermen, would be received at the hands of the learned ones of Rome.

3. Roman Intoleranceof other religions than her own.

4. The supreme wickedness of Rome. Rome was rotten to th the core. Its evil practices are unmentionable. Paul's Gospel directly opposed to all wickedness in both low and high places.

5. The Roman Rulerat that time was by far the worst of the wicked. No words can adequately describe such a monster of iniquity, that bloody conscienceless diabolic tyrant who sacked Rome, burned Xns, murdered his mother, and slew his wives- Nero, the Epitome of total deparavity!

In the face of Roman pride of power and intellect, in the face of Roman intolerance and bigorty, in the face of Roman wickedness, and in the face of that Roman Nero, it meant something for Paul to say, As much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are Rome also.

II. Are we Ready to Live and Work for Christ?

1. The world greatly changed since the time of Paul. To-day Paul could go most anywhwere on earth and preach unmolested. Xn influence is welcomed in all leading countries and felt in all parts of the world.

2. But the kingdom of the world is not yet the K. of G. There is still pride of power and intelledt, intolerance and wickedness that are opposed to the rule of God in the hearts and lives of mankind.

3. Have we a Gospel that we can call distinctly our own, and are we preaching it in our Romes of today? Do we live and work for Christ in any such measure as Paul did?

4. Suggestive ways for helpful action.
Post-cards to editors of papers.
Comments to local theatre manager
Greater interest in our public schools.
Citizenship duties and Xn interest in politics.